

What is claimed is:

1. An amino acid sequence having more than 70% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.
2. The amino acid sequence according to claim 1, having more than 85% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.
3. The amino acid sequence according to claim 1, having more than 95% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.
4. The amino acid sequence according to claim 2, having more than 95% homology with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.
5. An amino acid sequence corresponding to SEQ ID NO: 2 or a portion thereof selected from the group consisting of the sequences comprised between:
  - the glutamic acid in position 13 and the glutamic acid in position 27,
  - the alanine in position 26 and the leucine in position 36,
  - the alanine in position 42 and the glutamic acid in position 57,
  - the glutamic acid in position 57 and the valine in position 69,
  - the valine in position 80 and the leucine in position 97,
  - the arginine in position 95 and the leucine in position 112,
  - the serine in position 118 and the serine in position 129,
  - the valine in position 137 and the threonine in position 150,
  - the glutamic acid in position 13 and the cysteine in position 47,
  - the glutamic acid in position 13 and the glycine in position 38,
  - the leucine in position 36 and the cysteine in position 47, and
  - the threonine in position 150 and the leucine in position 162.

6. A pharmaceutical formulation in an orally administrable dosage form, comprising:
  - (a) the amino acid sequence according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, and
  - (b) possibly a pharmaceutically acceptable reductant and/or electron donor.
7. A method of treating neurotoxic injury in a patient suffering from said injury by administering to said patient a composition comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim 1, its pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said compound is present in said composition in an amount effective to treat said neurotoxic injury.
8. A method of decreasing the effect of excitotoxic injury in a patient, having said injury, comprising administering to said patient a composition comprising the amino acid sequence according to claim 1, its pharmaceutically acceptable salts or derivatives and pharmaceutically acceptable esters, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein said compound is present in said composition in an amount effective to treat said excitotoxic injury in said patient.
9. The method according to claim 8, wherein said excitotoxic injury is caused by oxidative stress.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein said excitotoxic injury is osteoarthritis.
11. The method according to claim 9, wherein said excitotoxic injury affects neuronal cells.
12. The amino acid sequence according to claim 1, produced in yeast.